



# Nursery News

## Emerald ash borer moving closer to North Dakota

Emerald Ash borer (EAB) is moving closer to North Dakota. The exotic Asian pest is now found in 15 states and two Canadian provinces. The nearest infestations to North Dakota are in the Twin Cities.



Adult emerald ash borer. Photo: Eric R. Day, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org

EAB larva tunnel through the conductive tissue under the bark, cutting off a tree's food source and eventually killing the tree in as little as three years. EAB has already killed millions of ash trees in the U.S. With an estimated 78 million ash trees in rural and urban settings, North Dakota has much to lose. Knowing the signs of EAB infestation, using local firewood sources, and planting species other than ash will help slow the pest's inevitable spread.

EAB shows several signs, some more characteristic than others. Canopy dieback begins in the top third of an infested ash tree, moving downward until the tree is bare. Healthy-looking trees, however, can also be infested, so it is important to look for other signs. Epicormic shoots or water sprouts may grow from the roots and/or trunk of the tree. The most tell-tale signs of EAB are bark splits revealing distinct, S-shaped galleries and a significant increase in woodpecker activity,

especially in healthy-looking trees. D-shaped exit holes are also characteristic of EAB.

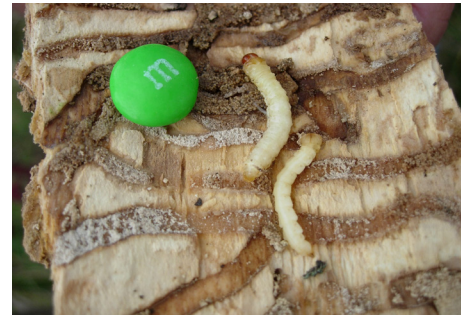
Moving firewood from place to place significantly increases the spread of EAB and other exotic pests. A "Buy it where you burn it" approach should be taken. Encourage travelers to leave their firewood at home. If firewood has already been moved, it should be burned immediately.



Peeled back bark reveals galleries left by emerald ash borer. Photo by Charles Elhard, NDDA

All ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) species, including green, white and Manchurian (Mancana), are susceptible to emerald ash borer. Nurseries should encourage customers to plant a wide variety of tree species. Diversification helps prevent a future, widespread tree death such as that caused by Dutch elm disease and now EAB.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS) and city foresters have



EAB larvae. Photo by Carrie Larson,

conducted statewide EAB surveys since 2008. This year about 250 purple prism traps were distributed across the state, and about the same number is planned for 2011. No EAB has yet been found in North Dakota.

NDDA, NDFS and the North Dakota State University Extension Service do not advocate using insecticides. Once EAB is detected in North Dakota, ash trees within 15 miles of an infestation may warrant treatment, especially high value trees in yards or on boulevards.

For additional information on EAB, please contact NDDA Plant Protection at (701) 328-2391 or visit the website listed on the back of this page.



1/8-inch, D-shaped exit hole, characteristic of EAB. Photo by Carrie Larson,

## North Dakota 2010 Nursery Facts

- \* 35 growers with 1,424 acres of inspected and certified nursery stock.
- \* 174 dealers including garden centers, landscapers, chain stores and nurseries.

### Significant pests & diseases in 2010

- Spruce needlecast
- Common ash/lilac borer
- Pine needle scale
- Cedar-hawthorn rust
- Ash anthracnose
- Oak anthracnose
- Pitch twig moth on pine
- Erineum gall mite on maple
- Honey-locust podgall midge
- Ash leaf curl aphid

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## Non-hardy list updated

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) list of non-hardy nursery stock includes plant species, varieties and cultivars that will not survive the state's climatic conditions. Listed plants must be labeled "Non-hardy in North Dakota." NDDA staff and North Dakota State University researchers revised the list this year.

These woody plants were added to the non-hardy list: Nordmann fir, heavenly bamboo, dwarf Alberta spruce, sawtooth oak, Shumard oak, smoothleaf elm, Japanese wisteria, nectarines and Japanese cypress. White mulberry was added to the list with the exception of the "tatarica" cultivar. Pear varieties on the non-hardy list include Bartlett, Kieffer, D'Anjou, Ayers, Lincoln, Moonglow, comice, and Hailey cultivars. Newport and Crimson Pointe® plums have been added as exceptions. Emerald arborvitae was listed in 2010.

Woody plants removed from the list include false cypress, Zestar® apple and Jane magnolia. Since many hardy varieties of boxwood have become available on the market, the green varieties of boxwood (*B. sempervirens* and *B. sinica* var *insularis* x *sempervirens*) have been removed from the non-hardy list.

Bigleaf hydrangea and evergreen-type rhododendrons are not listed as non-hardy but may be cited if not labeled with complete botanical and/or common name including cultivar or variety name. For example, rhododendrons labeled "Assorted Rhododendrons" would be in violation of labeling laws.

For more information or for a copy of the non-hardy list, contact NDDA or visit [www.agdepartment.com/Programs/pp/nurseryprogram.html](http://www.agdepartment.com/Programs/pp/nurseryprogram.html).

## Barberry and black stem rust

Black stem rust poses a major risk to North Dakota cereal grains. Because barberry is an alternate host for black stem rust, federal and state quarantines regulate the movement of barberry to ensure that only rust-resistant varieties are distributed. Nurseries must have a permit to sell barberry in North Dakota. Application for this permit is included on the nursery license application. Dealers must list their source nurseries of barberry to ensure compliance with the quarantines.

Documents certifying federal quarantine compliance must accompany any shipments and must be kept on file. Inspectors may ask to see these certificates during inspections.

## Nursery application renewals due

Nursery license applications are due Feb. 15, 2011. A nursery license is required to sell nursery stock which includes trees, shrubs, and woody vines intended for outdoor planting. This includes, but is not limited to, garden centers, chain stores, nursery wholesalers, growers and landscapers who are planting for a customer. The license is \$50 and is valid through Dec. 31, 2011. Growers must provide the legal description of all growing areas and may be required to provide a map. All nursery stock must be maintained by mechanical or chemical weed control and must be inspected and certified free of damaging plant pests. The fee also covers the barberry permit. Accurate and complete filling out of the application prevents delays in licensing. For more information or an application form, please contact the NDDA plant protection staff listed at left.

## Upcoming Meetings

Jan. 5-7: Northern Green Expo, Minneapolis, MN

Jan. 30-Feb. 2: North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association and North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association Convention, Fargo